

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2020
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Raystown Lake Project**
District / Division:**Baltimore District / North Atlantic Division**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Terrace Mountain Trail Improvement Initiative**
Corps POC Name:**Allen Gwinn**
Telephone:(**814**) **658 - 6810** ext.
E-Mail: **allen.gwinn@usace.army.mil**

A. Checklist:

1. Will the Handshake funds be spent on Corps facilities and resources that are being fully maintained by the Corps? (not in outgranted parks) **Yes** **No**
 2. Will the Challenge Partnership agreement be with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? **Yes** **No**
 3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved lake project OMP? **Yes** **No**
 4. Have all of the NEPA requirements been considered for this project? **Yes** **No**
 5. I am aware the Challenge Partnership Agreement must be reviewed and Approved by District Office of Counsel before sending to HQUSACE. **Yes** **No**
 6. If the full funding amount requested is not available, could a portion of this Handshake Project be completed with partial funding? **Yes** **No**
 7. I am aware that all government funds must be spent in accordance with FAR, DFAR and AFAR contracting laws and regulations, and that Handshake funds cannot be provided to the partner(s). **Yes** **No**
 8. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2019 or review a 2019 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? **Yes** **No**
-

B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$25,000): \$24,056.00

C. Incentive Points Category: Check the appropriate box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score.

- This project will be completed with a national MOU partner with which the Lake or Project hasn't previously partnered. (100 points).
- This project reduces O&M cost to the Corps over the lifecycle of the proposed project or improves existing infrastructure. (100 points).

D. Describe your partnership and the proposed Handshake Partnership Project:

Project applications will be evaluated on the categories below. Please complete each section as appropriate.

Summary Statement:

The Terrace Mountain Trail (TMT) at Raystown Lake is a 25 mile long trail that meanders the steep mountainside of Raystown Lake. Along with abundant wildlife viewing opportunities, this trail system offers spectacular views of the lake from remote wilderness locations that few of the 1.5 mil annual visitors get to enjoy. This trail system has been designed for the overnight wilderness backpacker and also for the day hiker who prefers to walk shorter portions of the trail. As the trail parallel's the lakeshore it travels through the USACE managed Tatman Run Recreation Area; adjacent to concession or partner areas like Lake Raystown Resort and FRL's Putts Camp; and by neighbors like Trough Creek State Park and the Rothrock State Forest, which border USACE property.

While most of the TMT system is well marked and accessible, there is a 6 mile section between Tatman Run and Trough Creek State Park that is so remote that it is difficult and expensive to maintain. The trail surface in this section is very narrow which prevents access by maintenance and emergency response equipment. The steep topography and narrow trails allow access only by foot. As an example, clearing large trees requires crews to carry chainsaws and equipment long distances to the work sites. This application is requesting support to improve the trail tread. This work will be accomplished using a trail improvement contractor and utilizing the resources of new and existing partners as described below.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

Funds will be used for the following:

- Trail repair contract to excavate and dig a new trail tread (\$23,056).
- Purchase of hand tools (Mattocks, McLeods, shovels, rakes, etc.) for trail volunteers (\$300)
- Signs and posts for trail navigation, interpretation, and education (\$500)
- Paint to effectively mark the trail corridor (\$100)
- Refreshments for the volunteers while sweating it out on the trail construction (\$100)

Longevity / O&M description:

The TMT has grown in popularity in recent years thanks to the popularity of back country trail hikes and the remote wilderness experience this trail provides. The repairs that would be covered by this funding would reduce the USACE costs of repair by nearly \$5,000 per year by reducing the time necessary to inspect and clear the trail. Currently inspections and repairs are done by walking the trail; this repair would accommodate ATV access for maintenance, reducing the time necessary to walk and transport tools to this remote section of trails.

The repairs would also be done according to IMBA trail building standards of sustainable trail construction and the Appalachian Trail Fieldbook for trail maintenance. Both guides recommend a minimum trail tread of 36" and out sloping at 3-5% on steep slopes to eliminate the effects of erosion and poorly designed drainage.

Both the improved access and the sustainable trail repairs would improve the long term health of the trail by reducing erosion and reducing the cost of maintenance. These repairs, if done correctly would last between 30-50 years before additional major repairs would be necessary. In addition, routine maintenance would be more efficient and would also result in extended trail health. The improved maintenance capability that results from these trail upgrades could possibly extend beyond the 50 year estimate.

Partnership Value:

The newly formed Friends of Trough Creek Park is looking for a signature project to develop their group a reputation for community action. By partnering with the USACE, the Friends of Raystown Lake, the Friends of Rothrock Forest, and the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau (all well established and reputable community non-profits) they will establish themselves as another group in the Raystown region that gets things done. This will help grow their membership capacity and provide them with the longevity that will allow them to partner on similar projects in the future. Many times groups like this bring to the table the sweat equity that is needed for the finishing touches, or the special care to make the trail experience what users to the Raytown Project have come to expect. The value of building partnerships like this is hard to measure, unless you have been there and seen the excitement and vigor that new projects like this can create. In addition to the new energy, we will be partnering with well established groups that have proven their worth time and again. Those that can be counted on for

successful completion of a project, in spite of the difficult challenges; those are the ones that have been built from the fires of past tribulations and have reached the pinnacle that new groups like the FTCP are striving to achieve.

Recreational Benefit:

Raystown has historically been known as a boating destination lake that provides numerous opportunities for lakeside camping. However, the user demographic for outdoor recreation has changed to more activities that promote heart healthy lifestyles and active living. Currently the trail systems at Raystown Lake, including the TMT, provide opportunities for mountain biking, wilderness backpacking, family hiking, trail running, dog walking, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and access to remote fishing spots. It has also been our experience that well maintained trails provide access for hunters outside the peak recreation season. Trail surface improvements requested for the TMT would provide not only a safer experience for the activities mentioned above but will also add to the quality of their outdoor experience.

The 2019 PA Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) notes that “An increased focus on outdoor recreation opportunities can lessen the obesity and chronic disease crisis. Getting people of all ages connected to the outdoors and nature can have a positive effect on the health and wellness of all Pennsylvanians”. In addition, the intrinsic value of being in the woods alone, or the relationship building that comes from being unplugged and spending family time together can add to the memorable benefit of trail use. Add to that the improved physical health that result from outdoor exercise, like lower body fat percentages, lower blood pressure, and lower cholesterol levels, and the benefits continue to mount. The economic impact resulting from the growth of these outdoor recreational activities is also significant.

According to The Outdoor Foundation in 2018 wilderness trail biking and hiking were the third and fourth most popular outdoor activity in the U.S. That same trend has been noted at Raystown Lake as back country hiking and biking on the Allegrippis Trail System and the TMT is at an all time high, leading to constant inquiries about the status and condition of the trails by our visitors.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

Raystown Lake has long been a leader in the Corps for environmental stewardship initiatives to include timber harvesting, invasive species management, American chestnut nurseries, fish & wildlife management and protection of T&E species. The TMT travels the entire length of the project allowing the Corps to showcase many of its active management initiatives. Visitors can walk through a freshly cut timber harvest, see the benefits of a controlled burn, explore a wildlife food plot and learn of the plight of the Northern Long-eared Bat as they walk through the newly established Bat Conservation Areas. The improvements to the TMT will allow the ES staff to better manage these initiatives due to increased access for equipment and stewardship contractors.

One of the primary goals of the Raystown Trails Systems is to develop a stewardship ethic in our visitors through outdoor recreation experiences; we want to reconnect our visitors with the abundant natural resources that surround them. Raystown has the benefit of an on-site Visitor Center, managed by the Huntingdon County Visitor’s Bureau that promotes this ethic and directs our visitors to these trails.

The improvements to the trail system provided by this Handshake Grant would provide increased access to view these stewardship venues. In addition, the process of how the trail would be improved would also serve as an example of sustainable trail design and management. As mentioned earlier in this application, proper and sustainable trail building techniques reduces the effects of erosion and adds to the long term health of the trail. These repairs, when done according to trail design standards would last between 30-50 years before additional repairs would be necessary.

Communication & Education Value:

Raystown Lake is currently in the final stages of a Master Plan Revision. During this process a spirited debate ensued regarding additional commercial development vs. the desire to maintain the lakeshore as undisturbed and undeveloped. The passion that both sides of this debate brought to the table resulted in large turnouts at the three public meetings. These forums provided an opportunity to get focused feedback from a large segment of the public on what they thought was important for the future of Raystown Lake. It was obvious at the end of the public comment period that the Raystown's users were in favor of additional trails and improvements to existing trails.

The selection of this application would allow Raystown staff to once again engage those users and promote the significance of how the USACE is developing partners and enhancing low impact wilderness recreation. Social

and print media would be used to showcase the partnerships and to interpret the impact the new improvements will have on the recreating public. Once completed, trail hikes, wayside exhibits and interpretive signage along the trail would provide opportunities to actively and passively educate and communicate the value of proper trail building techniques, drainage management, threatened and endangered species, personal health improvements, how to become a USACE volunteer, and many other topics related to the USACE missions.

As noted in the ES section of this application, interpretive exhibits in the Raystown Visitors Center would continue to promote the stewardship ethic with exhibits and interpretive programming. New exhibits showcasing food plots, controlled burns, and other ES activities that take place along this section of trail would be added, and on-site exhibits in areas newly opened to public viewing and interaction could be included.

The staff at Raystown has proven its ability to promote, communicate, and publicize positive partner activities. This would be another opportunity for Raystown, and the USACE, to receive positive energy by communicating the successful leveraging of partner resources while improving outdoor wilderness recreational opportunities.

Innovativeness:

Just as the Terrace Mountain Trail connects USACE recreational opportunities with the adjacent Trough Creek State Park, this partnership would connect several organizations and foster new and continued growth of their organizations. This trail maintenance project would serve as a signature project for the FTCP to build their capacity, while also providing additional outdoor wilderness recreation for the public.

While many Corps projects have friends groups or partners, this partnership would be one of a kind. It would demonstrate the USACE's commitment to building partner groups by joining the forces of the newly established Friends of Trough Creek State Park with the established Friends of Raystown Lake, Friends of Rothrock Forest, and the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau.

The establishment and growth that could result from encouraging multiple non-profit agencies to support and build off of one another while all supporting the Corps' mission is truly unique.

Conclusion:

The Handshake Partnership Program is intended to grow new partnership opportunities and to challenge partners with collaboration. The TMT Improvement Initiative fits this purpose perfectly. Linking the FTCP with the FRL and other partners will establish that relationship. This is a project that the PAC could showcase as a model of what the Handshake Program is about; building partners and partnership groups that help reduce the O&M of the USACE while improving the opportunities for our guests.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names.

You MUST enter partner names into the spreadsheet:

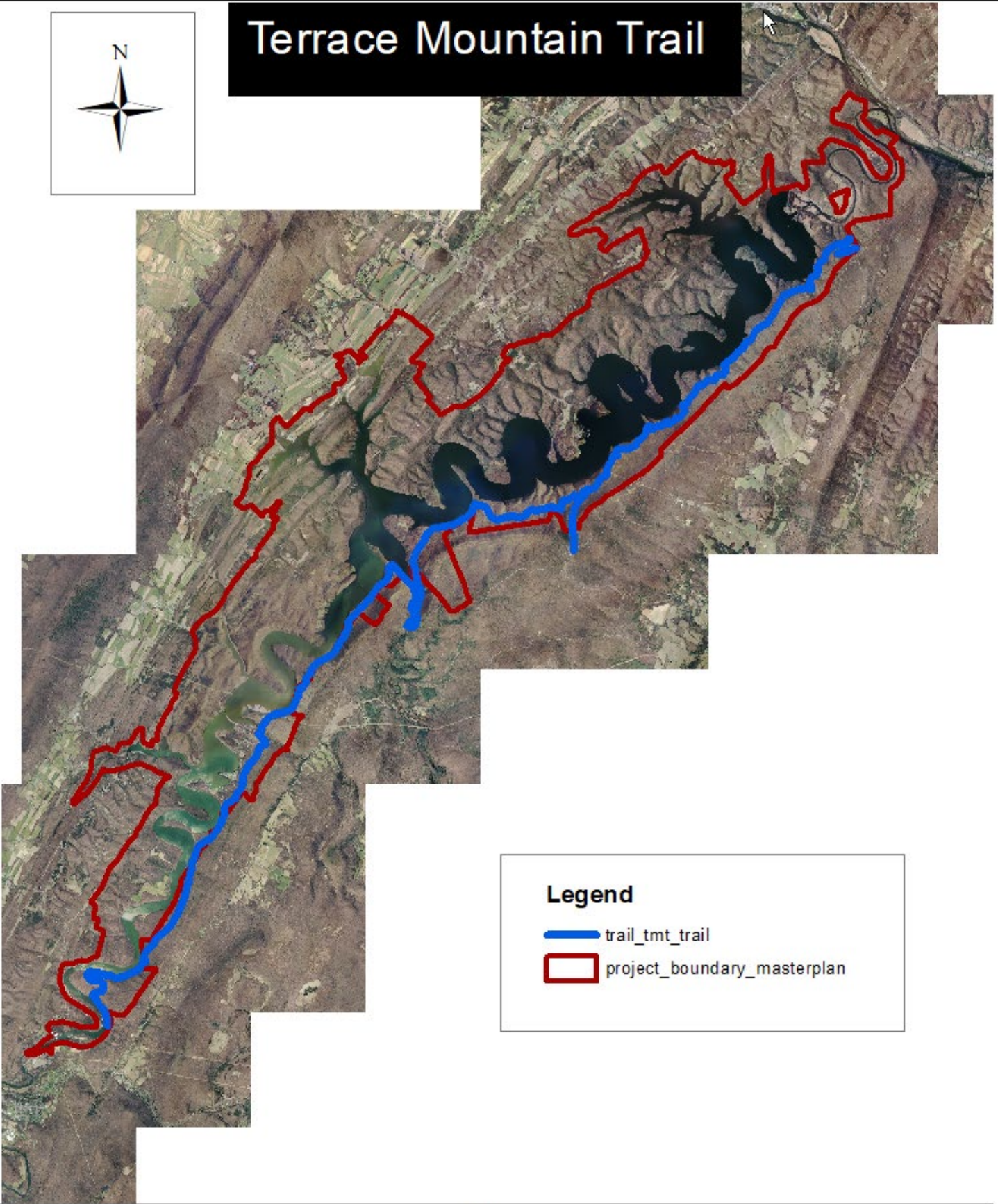
	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	FTCP	FRL	HCVB	FRSF
Salaries	\$5,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$4,056	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$1,000
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$5,086	\$0	\$0	\$2,543
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$1,000	\$12,000	\$2,500
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$5,000	\$24,056	\$5,086	\$6,500	\$12,000	\$6,043
Share of Total Cost	8.5%	41.0%	8.7%	11.1%	20.4%	10.3%
	49.5%					

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0



	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,556
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,500
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,629
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,500
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$58,685
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: The USACE would use Handshake funding to solicit and award a contract for the trail tread improvements noted in this application.

Terrace Mountain Trail



Legend

-  trail_tmt_trail
-  project_boundary_masterplan

